



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT  
HEALTH HAZARDOUS MATERIALS DIVISION  
UNIFIED PROGRAM AGENCY**



**USED TEXTILE MANAGEMENT  
GUIDANCE DOCUMENT**

**GD - 5- HW - 2007**

**BACKGROUND**

Textile materials (e.g. shop rags, towels, uniforms, gloves, etc.) that have become soiled with hazardous waste (e.g. oil and solvents) during commercial or industrial use are exempt from certain requirements of hazardous waste laws and regulations (e.g. hazardous waste manifest requirements) if all of the following requirements are met:

- The materials are made reusable by laundering (or comparable methods of cleaning) at a facility (i.e. commercial laundry) with a contingency plan for handling both on-site and off-site emergencies involving the materials and which maintains records of the date, type, and quantities (by piecework or weight) of the materials laundered.
- The materials are not subject to federal regulation as hazardous wastes.
- The materials are not used to clean up or control a spill that is required to be reported to any state or federal agency.
- No hazardous waste has been added after the materials' original use.
- No free liquids are released during transportation or storage of the materials. "Free liquids" means liquids which readily separate from the solid portion of a waste under ambient temperature and pressure.

**COMMERCIAL LAUNDRY FACILITIES**

Commercial laundries are exempt from the requirement to obtain a full hazardous waste treatment permit. These facilities are only required to notify under the Conditionally Exempt Authorization Tier of Tiered Permitting by submitting the required notification form to the local CUPA for the treatment (washing) of contaminated textiles. Facilities laundering or using comparable methods of cleaning reusable soiled textile materials and performing the pretreatment necessary to remove the metals and organics from the wastewater that results from the wash process are exempt from hazardous waste treatment permitting provided the following requirements are met:

- The waste wash water conveyances and containers are constructed of materials to ensure that they are impervious under the conditions of use, and are visually inspected at least twice a year to ensure that waste wash water is not leaking into the underlying soil.
- The sludge collected from the washing process is managed properly.
- The facility has a training program in place that ensures that the facility personnel are able to safely and properly handle and clean the reusable soiled textile materials and to respond effectively to emergencies by familiarizing them with emergency procedures, equipment, and systems.
- The facility is in compliance with the tiered permitting notification requirements for Conditionally Exempt Commercial Laundry facilities and all other applicable regulatory requirements (e.g., HSC 25201.5).
- Management procedures are in place to ensure that the reusable soiled textile materials are managed in accordance with all the requirements specified above.

**Disclaimer**

This guidance document does not replace or supersede relevant statutes and regulations. It is intended for informational purposes only and may not encompass all of the statutes and regulations to this topic. More details may be found at Cal EPA Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov). If further information is needed, call the County of Los Angeles CUPA at (323) 890-4045.